

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /026 W

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Z O 051139Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 808

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO FLASH

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM FLASH

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4565

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: TERRORIST ATTACK IN KUALA LUMPUR

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF CURRENT GOM THINKING ACCORDING TO HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE: IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL OF AIRCRAFT, RELEASED GUERILLAS ON BOARD WILL BE PUT THROUGH ON DIRECT TELEPHONE LINE TO OUR SWITCHBOARD AND HENCE TO TERRORISTS ON 9TH FLOOR. INITIAL PROBLEM WILL BE TO CONVINCE TERRORISTS THAT PLANE IS HERE AND THEIR COMRADES ARE ABOARD. NEXT PROBLEM WILL BE ARRANGEMENT FOR DEPARTURE FROM BUILDING AND TRANSPORT TO AIRPORT OF TERRORISTS AND/OR HOSTAGES. GOM PREFERS TO USE GROUND TRANSPORT RATHER THAN HELICOPTERS BUT WILL USE HELICOPTERS IF TERRORISTS INSIST. BEFORE OR AFTER TRIP TO AIRPORT, THERE WILL BE LONG, DIFFICULT NEGOTIATION ON SUBJECT OF HOSTAGES. GOM WILL BEGIN BY INSISTING THAT NO RPT NO HOSTAGES BE SENT WITH TERRORISTS. THEY ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, TERRORISTS WILL INSIST THAT SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS ACCOMPANY FLIGHT. THEY ALSO FORESEE REAL POSSIBILITY TERRORISTS WILL INSIST THAT THREE OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF "RESPONSIBLE NATIONS", I.E., JAPAN, U.S. AND SWEDEN, ACCOMPANY AIRCRAFT. IT IS AROUND THESE POINTS THAT MOST DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS LIKELY TO EMERGE AND GHAZALI PREDICTED THAT THEY MAY TAKE ALL NIGHT.

2. IN DISCUSSION OF HOSTAGES, GHAZALI APPROACHED SITUATION DESCRIBED IN  
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STATE 184178 BUT AVOIDED COMING TO POINT

AT WHICH STATEMENT OF USG POSITION WAS NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE NEVERTHELESS THAT HIS THINKING INCLUDES CONSUL STEBBINS, SWEDISH CHARGE AND PROBABLY SENIOR JAPANESE. HE DID NOT SUGGEST WHO MALAYSIAN REPRESENTATIVES MIGHT BE, BUT INDICATED OBLIQUELY THAT SENIOR MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE.

3. GHAZALI SAID SPECIFICALLY THAT, ALTHOUGH ATTEMPT WOULD BE MADE TO HAVE TERRORISTS DECLARE DESTINATION BEFORE TAKEOFF, HE ANTICIPATED THAT THEY WOULD GET IN THE AIR AND START WESTWARD BEFORE LOOKING FOR PLACE TO SET DOWN. AT THAT POINT, HE SAID, GOM WILL BE ASKING "RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTS", PARTICULARLY U.S., FOR ANY HELP WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED IN COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE RELATING TO CLEARANCES, LANDING PERMISSION, ETC. (I TOLD GHAZALI THAT I WOULD PASS HIS ANTICIPATED REQUEST TO MY GOVERNMENT, BUT DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENT.)

4. WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT SCENARIO OUTLINED BY GHAZALI SHAFIE IN PARA 2 ABOVE IS SPECULATIVE ON HIS PART AND DOES NOT REPRESENT GOM POSITION. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT GHAZALI WILL BE CHIEF NEGOTIATOR AND WILL HAVE MAJOR SAY IN ANY DECISIONS. HE HAS ASKED THAT JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, SWEDISH CONSUL-GENERAL FROM SINGAPORE AND I BE AVAILABLE WHERE HE CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH US IMMEDIATELY FROM 7:00 PM LOCAL TIME ONWARD.  
DILLON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, AIR TRANSPORTATION, ITINERARY, TERRORISTS, HOSTAGES, NEGOTIATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Subject:** TERRORIST ATTACK IN KUALA LUMPUR  
**TAGS:** PINS, MY, JAL, JAPANESE RED ARMY, (GHAZALI SHAFIE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006